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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,901	02/09/2004	Arlan Dean Heil	HEIL 005	8776
7590	08/09/2006		EXAMINER	
Guy McClung No. 347 16690 Champion Forest Drive Spring, TX 77379-7023			ALI, SHUMAYA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3743	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/774,901

Applicant(s)

HEIL, ARLAN DEAN

Examiner

Shumaya B. Ali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: detailed action.

***Election/Restrictions***

Newly submitted claim 33 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: new claim 33 reads on non-elected species 1, figure 2 because “cushion material” is only used with the embodiment of figure 2.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 33 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 25-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not

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described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant's specification has not stated the limitations of an "adjustability means for adjusting length of the strap between the cuff and the footwear" as recited in claim 31 and the means is an "openable closable clasp and buckle apparatus" as recited in claim 32 are applicable to the embodiment of figure 3. In addition, those limitations are not depicted in figure 3.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnston US Patent No. 1,666,290.**

**As to claim 30**, Johnston in figure 1 discloses an apparatus, more specifically an ankle brace for prevention of sprains or breaks in the wearer's ankle (see page 1, lines 2-3). The brace of Johnston comprises following structural limitations which are capable of inhibiting foot eversion. Those limitations comprising a cuff (10) positionable around a leg immediately above an ankle joint (page 1, lines 33-34 "...encircle the wearer's ankle above the ankle joint", see fig.1) so that the ankle joint prevents the cuff from moving downwardly, a strap (see fig.1, strap received by a central plate 14) with a first end (attaching cuff, see fig.1) and a second end

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(attaching pate 14, see fig.1), the first end connected to the cuff and the second end connectible to footwear at a location on a portion of the footwear at an outer side (page 1, lines 60-62, see fig.1) thereof wherein the cuff is positionable above protruding parts (page 1, lines 33-34) of the ankle thereby preventing the cuff from moving down on the leg below the ankle and wherein the cuff is supported by the protruding parts of the ankle to facilitate inhibition of eversion of the foot (lines 68-86).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnston US Patent No. 1,666,290 in view of Robinson US Patent No. 4,922,630.**

**As to claim 31**, Johnston discloses claimed invention as applied for claim 30 except for adjustability means for adjusting length of the strap between the cuff and the footwear. **With respect to claim 32**, Johnston additionally does not disclose wherein the adjustability means is from the group consisting of openable-closable clasp and buckle apparatus. However, at the time of the invention limitations as cited in claims 31-32 were known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Robinson in figures 1-4 teaches a foot inversion apparatus with a strapping mechanism 19 (equivalent to "strap") with one end connected to an ankle cuff (16) and opposite end

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connectable to a footwear (see fig.2). Robinson further teaches double D-ring, a cam, a hook and loop closure, or some other device that provides a means to permit changing the functional strap length to the desired length (see col.6 lines 1-5). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the adjustment mechanism of Johnston to employ any well known adjustment mechanism doing so would have provide a means to permit changing the functional strap length to the desired length including the adjustment mechanism taught by Robinson.

### *Conclusion*


Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shumaya B. Ali whose telephone number is 571-272-6088. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on 571-272-4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Shumaya B. Ali  
Examiner  
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